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**Document Title:** (U//~~FOUO~~) Special Events Threat Assessment-2014 Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade and Road Race

**Synopsis:** (U//~~FOUO~~) Special Events Threat Assessment-2014 'St. Patrick's Day Parade and Road Race'

**File Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED//**FOUO**

**Uploaded File:** (0//~~FOOD~~) SETA 2014 Holyoke St. Patriotic Parade

#### **Filing and Security**

Primary Case: 3:00A RS G3912023

**Case Title:** (U) March 22 - 23, 2014  
Holyoke, Massachusetts  
Saint Patrick's Day  
Festivities

**Serial Number:** 14

Serialized: 03/07/2014

Initiated: 12/30/2013

Part 11

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06 MAR 2014  
(U) 2014 St. Patrick's Day Parade and Road Race  
Holyoke, Massachusetts  
FBI Boston/Springfield BA

#### (U) Key Findings

(U//~~FOUO~~) As of 6 March 2014, FBI Boston has no information to indicate a specific, credible threat to or associated with the 2014 St. Patrick's Day Parade and Road Race.

(U) We are concerned about the sustained interest by terrorists and criminals in targeting mass gatherings. Lone offenders and Homegrown Violent Extremists (HVEs) are of paramount concern given the expected numbers of spectators/participants for the parade and road race. These events would provide extremists opportunity to perpetuate a mass casualty attack, as witnessed by the April 2013 Boston Marathon attacks.

## (U) Event Overview

(U) The St. Patrick's Day Road Race in Holyoke, MA will be held on Saturday, 22 March 2014 at 1PM. The race is a 10 kilometer race starting on Maple St. and finishing on Hampden St. The start and finish line are in close proximity to one another making it likely that spectators will move the short distance from the starting line to the finish line. Race officials are expecting 8,000 runners for

this year's race. In 2013, there were close to 6,000 runners. Given the number of runners, the race attracts a large number of spectators along the route.

(U) The St. Patrick's Day Parade in Holyoke, MA will be held on Sunday, 23 March 2014, at 12 PM. The parade is the second largest St. Patrick's Day Parade in the nation, attracting 350-450 thousand spectators every year. The Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade has historically attracted many international and state/local dignitaries which is also a consideration for security officials.

(U) Scope Note

(U//~~FOUO~~) This assessment addresses threats to the 2014 Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade and Road Race from 22-23 March 2014. This FBI assessment does not include non-violent civil disobedience tactics (e.g., protests without a permit) which are outside the scope of federal law enforcement jurisdiction. The FBI Boston Field Intelligence Group has prepared the following Special Event Threat Assessment (SETA) for the 2014 Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade and Road Race to assist security planners and law enforcement personnel in monitoring threat information and maintaining a safe and secure environment. Information in this assessment is current and accurate as of 06 March 2014.

(U) Potential Threat Indicators

(U//~~FOUO~~) Absent a specific, actionable threat to the 2014 Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade and Road Race we are providing indicators to aid law enforcement and first responders in identifying and mitigating threats. The totality of behavioral indicators and other relevant circumstances should be evaluated when considering any law enforcement response or action. (Note: behaviors associated with the below indicators can include constitutionally protected activities. The FBI does not initiate any investigative activity based solely on the exercise of First Amendment activities or on the race, ethnicity, national origin or religion of the subject, or a combination of only such factors.)

(U//~~FOUO~~) Possible indicators of pre-operational surveillance or attack planning include:

(U//~~FOUO~~) [REDACTED]

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(U//~~FOUO~~) Observation of [REDACTED]

(U//~~FOUO~~) [REDACTED]

(U//~~FOUO~~) [REDACTED]

(U//~~FOUO~~) Observation of [REDACTED]

(U//~~FOUO~~) Observations of [REDACTED]

(U//~~FOUO~~) [REDACTED]

(U//~~FOUO~~) [REDACTED]

(U//~~FOUO~~)(U//~~FOUO~~)

(U//~~FOUO~~) Please report suspicious activities associated with any of the indicators listed above to the contact information at the end of this document.

(U) Report Suspicious Activity

(U) FBI encourages recipients of this document to report information concerning suspicious or criminal activity to the local FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF). The FBI's Boston Field Office, Springfield Resident Agency can be reached [redacted] or by email [redacted]

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**Indexing**

Page

of 1



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